

## REMARKS

In item 4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 8, 13, 21 and 26-29 under the provision of 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Yoshino et al. (JP Appl. No. S48-17044).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of this amendment.

The Examiner stated that Yoshino et al. discloses a method for eliminating bitterness of a pharmaceutical by administering a composition comprising uridylic acid (UMP) or cytidylic acid (CMP), and salts thereof alone or by a mixture of two or more of these compounds.

---

The presently claimed invention is directed to a composition and a method for inhibiting the sensory perception of bitterness in foods and beverages. The inhibitors of this invention when administered to a subject in an effective amount may be used as flavor enhancers in foods and beverages to overcome their bitter taste.

The Applicant acknowledges that Yoshino et al. describes the use of uridylic acid (UMP) and cytidylic acid (CMP) as additives to prevent the bitter taste of **“pharmaceuticals that contain bitterness, mainly a crude drugs and organic chemical agents”** (see Yoshino et al., at second full paragraph on page 1 of translation). Moreover, the Yoshino reference is directed to the use of CMP and UMP as bitter inhibitors only for pharmaceuticals and drugs (see translation of Yoshino et al. patent generally). Further, the prior cited art makes absolutely no mention or reference to the use of such compounds in any other compositions.

However, the presently amended Claims are directed to a novel method by which “[t]he inhibitors of the invention may be used to enhance the flavor of food, beverages... [i]n addition to increasing food consumer satisfaction... could increase food intake in humans or livestock” (see Specification page 6, lines 8-13), by inhibiting the activation of G-proteins by bitter tastant-stimulated taste receptors and results in responses which indicate that the sensation of bitterness is diminished (see Specification at page 5, paragraph [0009]). The presently claimed invention inhibits bitter taste perception of food and beverages, whereas the cited prior art teaches a composition to mask the bitter taste of pharmaceuticals only (See Yoshino et al. generally).

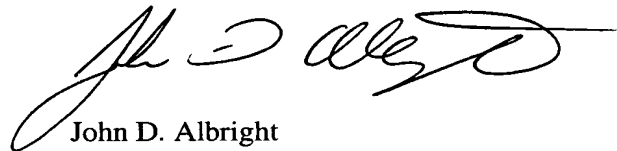
Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and maintains that the cited prior reference teaches the use of UMP and CMP for masking the bitter taste of pharmaceuticals and drugs only. As such, the presently claimed invention discloses a novel method which "improve[s] the taste of foods by deceasing or eliminating the aversive effects of bitter tastants" (see Specification, page 16, paragraph [0036] and the Specification generally). The presently claimed invention inhibits bitter taste perception of foods and beverages, whereas the cited prior art teaches a composition to mask the bitter taste of pharmaceuticals and drugs.

The Yoshino reference clearly does not teach **inhibiting the bitter** taste of foods and beverages. For these reasons the § 102(b) rejection over Yoshino is improper. Removal of the rejection is therefore requested.

In view of the foregoing discussion, applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art. Allowance of the newly amended Claims is therefore respectfully solicited.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



John D. Albright  
Registration No. 52,551

MAILING ADDRESS:

Hedman & Costigan, P.C.  
1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036-2601  
(212) 302-8989